

ORDINANCE NO. C36691

An ordinance establishing the H.O.M.E. Starts Here initiative; amending Chapter 18.05; adopting new Sections 18.05.06, 18.05.07, 18.05.08, and 18.05.09; and repealing Section 18.05.010 of the Spokane Municipal Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Spokane does ordain:

Section 1. That Chapter 18.05 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 18.05 ((~~Protections for Homeless People~~)) HOME Starts Here Initiative

Section 2. That there is adopted a new Section 18.05.06 of the Spokane Municipal Code to read as follows:

Section 18.05.06 Definitions

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ALICE	Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level but cannot afford the basic cost of living in Spokane County. Despite struggling to make ends meet, ALICE households often do not qualify for public assistance.
Alternative Response Teams	Alternative response teams, led by the Spokane Police Department and Spokane Fire Department, co-deploy with embedded mental health clinicians to respond to behavioral health calls. Trained co-deployed teams successfully de-escalate and divert individuals in a behavioral health crisis from arrest or hospital emergency rooms while connecting them with a broad range of services provided by community-based partners.
Apple Health	Apple Health is the name of Medicaid in Washington.
Basic Food	Basic Food is Washington's name for the state's food assistance program, which includes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Food Assistance Program, which provides food

	assistance to legal immigrants who aren't eligible for federal Basic Food benefits solely because of their immigration status.
By-name List	A “By-Name List” (BNL) is a real-time list of all people in a subpopulation experiencing homelessness. By-name lists are a known best practice for homeless service systems because they can contain a robust set of data points that coordinate access and service prioritization at a household level, allow for easier case conferencing, are a collective tool of ownership and responsibility among differing agencies, and allow stakeholders to understand the homeless system inflow and outflow at a systems level.
Community Assistance Response Team (CARES)	CARES is a Spokane Fire Department social response initiative to improve quality of life and reduce unnecessary EMS use by addressing social determinants of health. This team responds to frequent users of the 911 emergency communications system by providing case management to stabilize individuals who are medically fragile and/or struggling with opioid use disorder, which reduces unnecessary contact with emergency systems.
Cost burdened	Cost burdened is when a person’s monthly housing costs (including utilities) exceed 30% of their monthly income.
Crisis Outreach, Response and Engagement (CORE)	CORE is a place-based proactive policing strategy that leverages partnerships between law enforcement, alternative response teams, and service providers to reduce criminal activity (and disorder) and increase the level of public safety by increasing visibility and presence, substance use treatment, engagement, housing-focused outreach, and navigation resources.
Diversion	Diversion is a person-centered approach that steers individuals away from the homelessness response system into alternative programs that meet the

	individual's unique needs and address the underlying reasons for homelessness.
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax credit program to support low- and moderate-income workers and families.
Outreach and Navigation System	The Outreach and Navigation System is the term used by the City of Spokane to represent the regional homeless crisis response system.
Progressive Engagement	Progressive engagement is the practice of helping households end their homelessness as rapidly as possible with minimal financial and support resources. More support is applied to those households who continue to struggle to stabilize.
Rapid Rehousing	Rapid re-housing provides short-term rental assistance and services to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and stay housed.
Racially restrictive real estate covenant	Racially restrictive real estate covenant is a recorded covenant or deed restriction that includes or included racial restrictions on property ownership or use against protected classes that are unlawful under RCW 49.60.224.
Redlining	Redlining is a discriminatory and illegal practice where people living in a certain area or neighborhood are not given the same access to loans and other credit services as people in other areas or neighborhoods based on race, color, national origin, or some other discriminatory reason, regardless of their ability to repay the loan.
Severe Cost Burdened	Severe Cost Burdened is when a person's monthly housing costs (including utilities) exceed 50% of their monthly income.
Working Families Tax Credit	The Washington Working Families Tax Credit is a refund of retail sales or use tax for low-to-moderate income Washington residents who meet eligibility requirements. The program is administered by the Washington State Department of Revenue.

Section 3. That there is adopted a new Section 18.05.07 of the Spokane Municipal Code to read as follows:

Section 18.05.07 Findings, Purpose, and Intent

A. The City of Spokane finds that population growth and the demand to live in the city of Spokane, along with decades of underbuilding and restrictive land use and zoning practices, have led to a housing affordability crisis.

B. The City of Spokane also finds that underlying historical injustices deepened by the COVID-19 pandemic have led to an unprecedented number of individuals facing behavioral health crises, economic insecurity, and barriers to housing and employment. Housing stability is fundamental to ensuring economic security and community safety.

C. The City of Spokane recognizes that each person at risk of homelessness or suffering from homelessness requires a targeted and comprehensive response that ultimately leads to an exit from the homeless crisis response system to housing stability.

D. The City of Spokane, through its limited powers enumerated in the Washington State Constitution and Washington state law, executes a comprehensive cross-sector/cross-agency, data-driven, and evidence-based regional approach to achieve housing stability, reduce and prevent homelessness, and ensure public health and safety:



E. The City of Spokane finds that achieving the following key indicators is likely to improve housing stability and economic security, prevent residents from becoming homeless, and reduce the number of individuals currently suffering from homelessness:

1. Reducing the number of Spokane residents who are housing cost-burdened or severely cost-burdened;
2. Growing the median household income to increase financial stability for all residents, especially ALICE households and those below the federal poverty line;
3. Adding new housing units to the city's housing supply at all income levels with an expansion of affordable housing options for the community's growing senior population and residents with disabilities;

4. Expanding the city's homeownership rate with a specific emphasis on increasing homeownership rates for people of color who have disproportionately been denied access to home mortgage financing and other homeownership opportunities; and
5. Increasing the percentage of the city's population who have health insurance to improve access to healthcare, including behavioral health and substance use treatment services.

Section 4. That there is adopted a new Section 18.05.08 of the Spokane Municipal Code to read as follows:

Section 18.05.08 H.O.M.E. Starts Here Initiative

The City of Spokane has identified the following strategic priorities to achieve housing stability, reduce and prevent homelessness, and ensure public health and safety:

A. Healthcare System

1. Prioritize access to quality behavioral health substance use disorder treatment services and coordinated case management that ends the cycle of "high utilizers" bouncing between the legal system, healthcare system, and homeless crisis response system.
2. Grow the City's proven alternative response models, including the Spokane Fire Department's CARES and alternative response teams that meet individuals in crisis where they are and divert them from the legal system and emergency healthcare system to substance use treatment services or other appropriate options.
3. Collaborate with local educational institutions, non-profits, and private-sector leaders to strengthen the service provider workforce by improving working conditions and eliminating the shortage of social workers, mental health counselors, and substance use outreach workers throughout the region.
4. Sustain the expanded street medicine partnership with local healthcare providers that provide primary care services to people experiencing homelessness to address wound care, foot care, referral coordination, resource navigation, and emergency services coordination.
5. Partner with Spokane County to leverage resources/relationships with local healthcare providers and institutions to build out a recovery campus where there is 'no wrong door' for individuals in crisis.
6. Support the development of additional medication-assisted treatment services, sobering beds, culturally specific treatment services, and crisis relief and stabilization facilities.

B. Outreach and Navigation

1. Achieve a percentage of exits from the homeless crisis response system to permanent housing at the level of the top-performing homeless crisis response systems nationwide.
2. Execute a best-practice navigation center model that provides humane, referral-first, emergency housing to individuals based on their specific subpopulation and needs at microsites geographically distributed throughout the region.
3. Expand and strengthen data-proven successful diversion and progressive engagement policies and programs that prevent homelessness, including rapid rehousing, emergency financial assistance, rental assistance, utility assistance, and eviction prevention.
4. Implement and maintain a performance-based project funding model and mobilize public, private, and non-profit resources to ensure taxpayers invest in interventions that verifiably achieve and exceed system targets and witness the positive outcomes of those interventions.
5. Utilize high-quality data, including but not limited to by-name lists and mapping technology, to identify micro-locations for housing-focused street outreach that navigate individuals through the homeless crisis response system and eventually to permanent housing.

C. Multidisciplinary Engagement

1. Engage in problem-solving, place-based, and person-focused policing that proactively addresses the underlying social causes of crime, in collaboration with community partners, as demonstrated through the City's CORE Program and Neighborhood Resource Officer program.
2. Increase diversion of non-emergent police calls for service to other resources, such as behavioral health and substance use treatment professionals, that free up patrol officers to attend to other emergent calls.
3. Coordinate law enforcement, code enforcement, housing-focused outreach, and street medicine resources to quickly engage people experiencing homelessness to resolve and prevent unauthorized encampments and navigate individuals voluntarily into diversion programs, trauma-informed care, and permanent housing solutions.
4. Safeguard Community Justice Services programs and therapeutic courts that have a documented and proven history of reducing recidivism, including

Community Court, Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment Court, Veterans' Enhanced Therapeutic Court, and the City/County Mental Health Court.

5. Partner with state and federal resources to detect, disrupt, and prosecute drug trafficking and serious narcotics offenses impacting residents and neighborhoods.

D. Economic Security

1. Reduce intergenerational poverty by leading regional economic development and workforce training efforts that grow and retain local businesses, improve economic competitiveness and readiness, and remove barriers to family-wage jobs that increase cash income and provide economic security through stable career paths.

2. Facilitate the building of all types of housing at all income levels through housing-focused zoning policies and innovative housing programs with an emphasis on enhancing:

(a) access to homeownership opportunities for first-time homebuyers and families that have been historically and disproportionately impacted by displacement, redlining, steering, racially restrictive real estate covenants, and zoning actions that have contributed to patterns of inequity; and

(b) accessible housing choices for fixed-income seniors and individuals with disabilities, especially affordable housing near transit lines.

3. Advance education efforts to improve awareness of and participation rates in earned benefit programs, such as the Working Families Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, Low Income Utility Credit program, and Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption.

4. Advocate for the preservation and sustainability of critical state and federal programs that keep families economically secure, such as Social Security, Medicaid/Apple Health, Medicare, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Basic Food, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

5. Bolster safe and cost-effective transportation choices that reduce commute times to school and employment opportunities and lessen the financial burden of transportation on households.

E. Accountability and Review

1. The City shall publish a biannual report evaluating the implementation of the H.O.M.E. Starts Here initiative.

2. The City Council may hold public hearings to review findings from the biannual report to adjust the H.O.M.E. Starts Here initiative as necessary to meet the objectives of achieving housing stability and economic security, preventing residents from becoming homeless, and reducing the number of individuals currently suffering from homelessness.

Section 5. That there is adopted a new Section 18.05.09 of the Spokane Municipal Code to read as follows:

Section 18.05.09 Guiding Plans and Documents

The City of Spokane will utilize the following formal plans and documents, as updated and amended from time to time, to guide the development and execution of policies and programs that meet the strategic priorities of this chapter:

- Comprehensive Plan for the City of Spokane
- City of Spokane Consolidated Plan – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- City of Spokane Fair Housing Plan
- City of Spokane Housing Action Plan
- City of Spokane Sequential Intercept Map
- Spokane City/County Continuum of Care 5-year Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Spokane Police Department Strategic Plan
- Spokane Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Section 6. That Section 18.05.010 of the Spokane Municipal Code is repealed.

PASSED by the City Council on _____

Council President

Attest:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

City Attorney

Mayor

Date

Effective Date